

II AMENDMENT

In the Claims:

Please amend claims 1–6, 8–10, 12, 14–15, 17, 23–25, and 52 as set forth below in a listing of the current status of all claims in the Application.

Claim 1. (currently amended) A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat after the harvest from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the ~~plants~~ tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~comprising~~ consists essentially of:

- (i) benzyl alcohol; and
- (ii) propylene glycol.

Claim 2. (currently amended) A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat after the harvest from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the ~~plants~~ tobacco or wheat, wherein said composition ~~comprising~~ consists essentially of: (a) benzyl alcohol and (b) tannic acid.

- Claim 3. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition also comprises consists essentially of benzyl alcohol, propylene glycol and a phenol containing essential oil.
- Claim 4. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 2~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said composition also includes consists essentially of phenylethanol, benzyl alcohol and tannic acid.
- Claim 5. (currently amended) A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat ~~after the harvest~~ from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the ~~plants~~ tobacco or wheat, wherein said composition comprising consists essentially of propylene glycol and tannic acid.

- Claim 6. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 5~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said ~~hydrophilic organic acid~~ antimicrobial composition further ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of propylene glycol, tannic acid and lactic acid.
- Claim 7. (previously presented) The method according to claim 5, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises less than 50% by weight of benzyl alcohol.
- Claim 8. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 5~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition further ~~comprises~~ consists essentially of propylene glycol, tannic acid, n-butyl alcohol and iso-butyl alcohol, but no benzyl alcohol and no polyphenol compounds.

- Claim 9. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 5~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises consists essentially of propylene glycol, tannic acid and benzyl alcohol.
- Claim 10. (currently amended) A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat after the harvest from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the ~~plants~~ tobacco or wheat, wherein said composition ~~comprising~~ consists essentially of lactic acid and tannic acid.
- Claim 11. (previously presented) The method according to claim 9, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises from 0.01 to 99% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 0.01 to 50% by weight of tannic acid.

- Claim 12. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 4~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~also comprises~~ consists essentially of benzyl alcohol, tannin and tannic acid.
- Claim 13. (previously presented) The method according to claim 12, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises:
- from 0.1 to 99% by weight of benzyl alcohol,
from ~~0 to 25%~~ by weight of tannin, and
from ~~0 to 70%~~ 0.01 to 50% by weight of tannic acid.
- Claim 14. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 12~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ consists essentially of benzyl alcohol, tannin, tannic acid and a phenol containing essential oil.

Claim 15. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 12~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition further comprises consists essentially of benzyl alcohol, tannin, tannic acid and phenylethanol.

Claim 16. (cancelled)

Claim 17. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 12~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition comprises consists essentially of:

from 0.1 to 99% by weight of benzyl alcohol;

~~from 0 to 99.8% by weight of propylene glycol;~~

~~from 0 to 25% by weight of tannin; and~~

~~from 0 to 70%~~ 0.01 to 50% by weight of tannic acid.

Claims 18–22. (cancelled)

Claim 23. (currently amended) The method according to claim 22 17, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~contains~~ consists essentially of from 20 to 98% by weight of benzyl alcohol and from 0.01 to 10% by weight of tannin.

Claim 24. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~further comprises~~ consists essentially of benzyl alcohol, propylene glycol and rapeseed oil.

Claim 25. (currently amended) ~~The method according to claim 1~~ A method for protecting harvested plants selected from the group consisting of tobacco and wheat from microbial attack, comprising the step of applying an antimicrobial composition to the surface of the tobacco or wheat, wherein said antimicrobial composition ~~further~~ consists essentially of benzyl alcohol, propylene glycol, rapeseed oil and lactic acid.

Claim 26. (previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said step of applying said antimicrobial composition to the surface of the plants is carried out by spraying.

Claims 27–51. (cancelled)

Claim 52. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein the antimicrobial composition as defined in claim 1 is applied after the harvest to prevent parasites larvae.